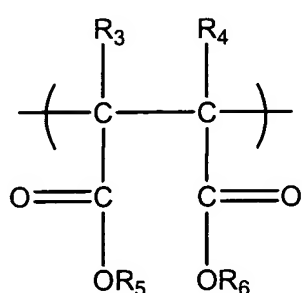
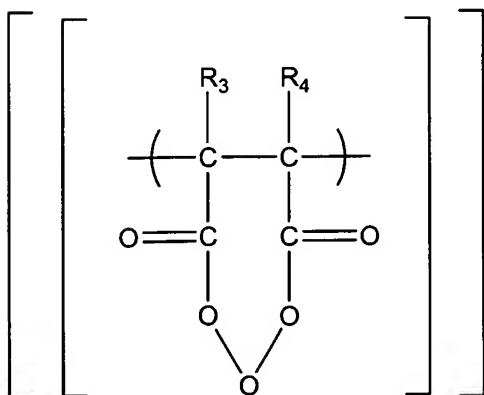
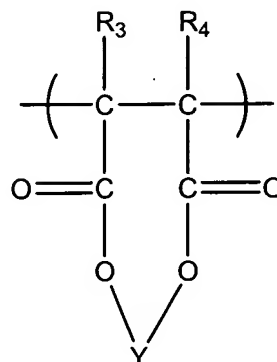


Amendments to the Claims:

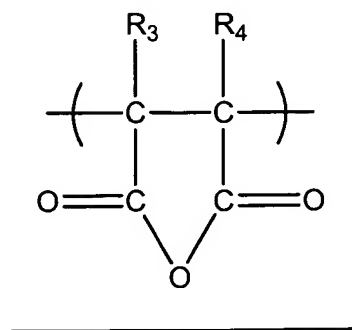
1. (Currently Amended) A fertilizer product comprising particles of a fertilizer with a substantially water-soluble polymer applied to the fertilizer particles so that the polymer is in contact with the fertilizer particles ~~in intimate contact with a substantially water-soluble polymer~~, said fertilizer being selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials, fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients, said polymer comprising recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B, and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, where moiety B is of the general formula



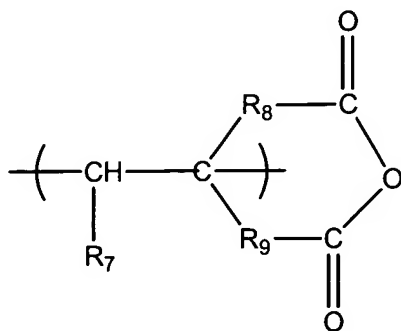
or



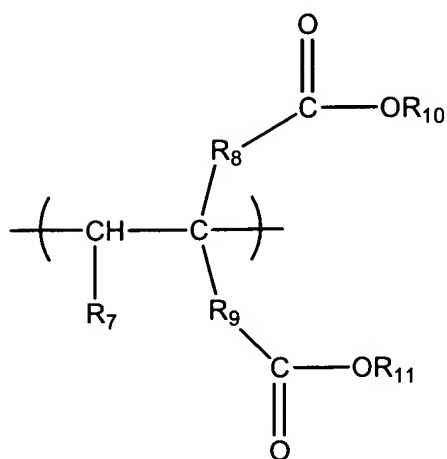
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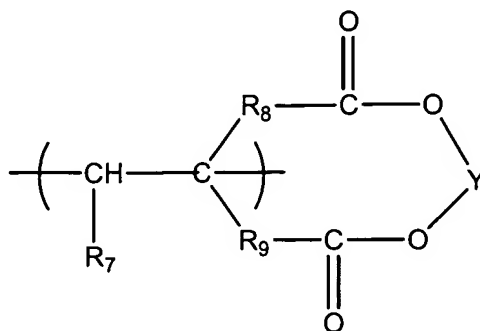
and moiety C is of the general formula



or



or



wherein each R_7 is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl formate based ester groups, $R'CO_2$ groups, OR' groups and $COOX$ groups, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and X is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, R_3 and R_4 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, C_1 - C_{30} straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, R_5 , R_6 , R_{10} and R_{11} are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH_4 and the C_1 - C_4 alkyl ammonium groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and R_8 and R_9 are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent), CH_2 , C_2H_4 , and C_3H_6 , each of said moieties having or being modified to have a total of two COO groups therein, and wherein the subunits forming the resultant polymer are predominantly dicarboxylic subunits.

2. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 1, said polymer and fertilizer being co-ground together.
3. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 1, said polymer being applied to the surface of said fertilizer.
4. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 1, said fertilizer being in the form of particles having an average diameter of from about powder size to about 10 cm.
5. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 1, said polymer being present in said fertilizer product at a level of from about 0.001 g to about 20 g polymer per 100 g fertilizer.
6. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 1, said polymer being complexed with an ion.
7. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 6, said ion being selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca.
8. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 1, said polymer substantially coating the surface of said fertilizer.

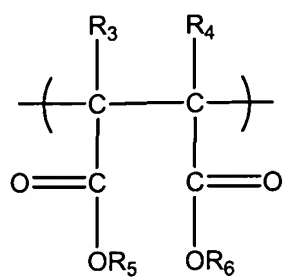
9. (Previously Presented) The fertilizer product of claim 8, said product generating less dust than fertilizers without added polymer.

10. (Previously Presented) The fertilizer product of claim 8, said coating being applied at a level of at least about 0.01% by weight of the coated fertilizer product.

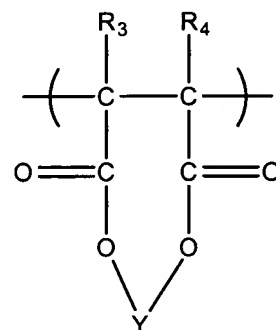
11. (Previously Presented) The fertilizer product of claim 8, said coating resulting in the complete inhibition of dust generation.

12-22. (Canceled).

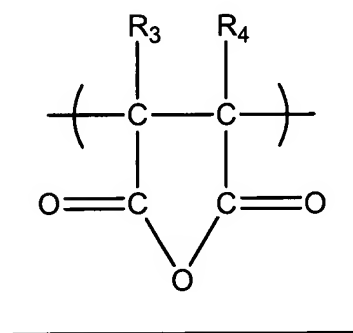
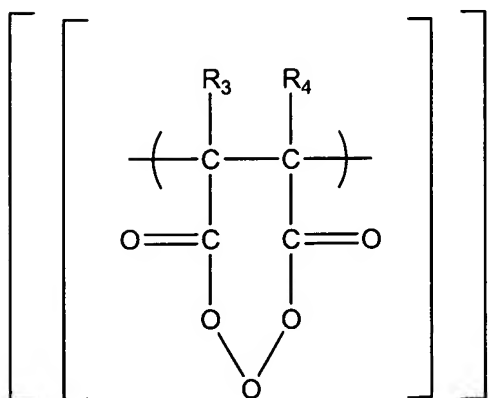
23. (Currently Amended) A fertilizer product comprising particles of a fertilizer selected from the group consisting of phosphate-based fertilizers, organic wastes, waste waters, fertilizers containing nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium calcium, magnesium, sulfur, boron, or molybdenum materials, fertilizers containing micronutrients, and oxides, sulfates, chlorides, and chelates of such micronutrients, a substantially water-soluble polymer applied to said fertilizer so that the polymer and fertilizer are in contact, said polymer being a ~~said fertilizer being in intimate contact with a composition comprising a substantially water-soluble~~ dicarboxylic acid polymer having recurring polymeric subunits each made up of at least two different moieties individually and respectively taken from the group consisting of B and C moieties, or recurring C moieties, wherein moiety B is of the general formula



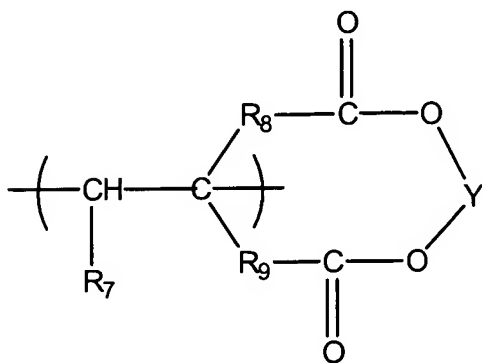
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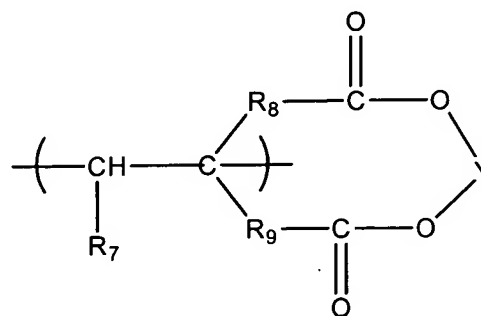
or



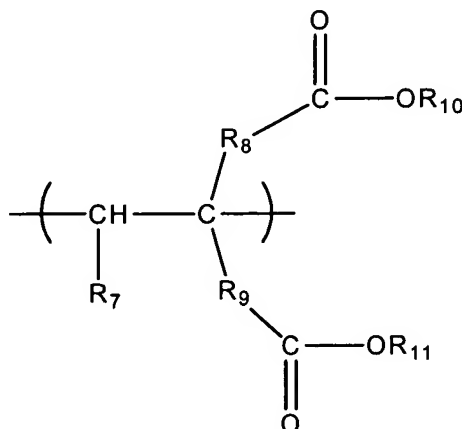
and moiety C is of the general formula



or



or



wherein each R₇ is individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, OH, C₁-C₃₀ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, C₁-C₃₀ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl based ester groups, R'CO₂ groups, OR' groups and COOX groups, wherein R' is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₃₀ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups and X is selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH₄ and the C₁-C₄ alkyl ammonium groups, R₃ and R₄ are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, C₁-C₃₀ straight, branched chain and cyclic alkyl or aryl groups, R₅, R₆, R₁₀ and R₁₁ are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of H, the alkali metals, NH₄ and the C₁-C₄ alkyl ammonium groups, Y is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca, and R₈ and R₉ are individually and respectively selected from the group consisting of nothing (i.e., the groups are non-existent), CH₂, C₂H₄, and C₃H₆, each of said moieties having or being

modified to have a total of two COO groups therein, and wherein the subunits forming the resultant polymer are predominantly dicarboxylic subunits.

24. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 23, said polymer and said fertilizer being co-ground together.

25. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 23, said polymer being applied to the surface of said fertilizer.

26. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 23, said fertilizer being in the form of particles having an average diameter of from about powder size to about 10 cm.

27. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 23, said polymer being present in said fertilizer product at a level of from about 0.001 g to about 20 g of polymer per 100 g fertilizer.

28. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 23, said polymer being complexed with an ion.

29. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 28 said ion being selected from the group consisting of Fe, Mn, Mg, Zn, Cu, Ni, Co, Mo, V and Ca.

30. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 25, said polymer substantially coating the surface of said fertilizer.

31. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 25, said product generating a decreased amount of dust in comparison to fertilizers which do not have polymer on their surface.

32. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 30, said coating level being at least about 0.005% by weight of the coated fertilizer product.

33. (Original) The fertilizer product of claim 30, said product generating little or no dust.

34. (Previously Presented) The fertilizer product of claim 33, said product generating no dust after abrasion resistance testing comprising the step of shaking said product for five minutes in a receptacle containing 10 stainless steel balls having a total weight of about 20 grams.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (New) The fertilizer product of claim 1, said fertilizer particles having been contacted with a material consisting essentially of said polymer.

38. (New) The fertilizer product of claim 23, said fertilizer having been contacted with a material consisting essentially of said polymer.